

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, EAID, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: AUB STUDENTS, AID PROGRAM

REFS: A. STATE 220354 B. STATE 233230

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN SEPT. 21, CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU RAISED SUBJECT OF AUB STUDENTS AND FUTURE AID PROGRAM FOR CYPRUS.

2. ON AUB STUDENTS, DIMITRIOU SAID CYPRUS HAD ABSOLUTELY REJECTED IDEA OF FUNDING CONTINUING EDUCATION FROM RELIEF FUNDS. AFTER SEPTEMBER 2 CONVERSATION REPORTED REF. A, DIMITRIOU SAID, HE HAD CABLED NICOSIA AND HAD RECEIVED RESPONSE SHORTLY THEREAFTER THAT GOC BACKED MRS. SOULIOTI'S POSITION TO THE HILT. SUBJECT TO EMBASSY NICOSIA'S RECONFIRMATION THAT THIS REPRESENTS FINAL GOC POSITION, MATTER OF ASSISTANCE TO AUB STUDENTS WOULD
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SEEM CLOSED.

3. ON AID PROGRAM, DIMITRIOU SAID HE HAD HEARD "UNOFFICIALLY" OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE \$17.5 MILLION FIGURE, BUT WANTED CONFIRMATION FROM EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WE EXPLAINED WE HAD HEARD THAT COMMITTEE HAD FIXED ON THIS FIGURE,

WHICH IS EXACT SPLIT BETWEEN ADMINISTRATION REQUEST AND SENATE'S \$25 MILLION FIGURE. WHILE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS NOT COMPLETE OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT MATTER WILL NOW PROCEED ROUTINELY. FYI: WHILE FURTHER COMMENT ON CYPRUS COULD OCCUR DURING FLOOR DEBATE ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT, ANY CHANGE IN \$17.5 MILLION FIGURE IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS POINT. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, DISCOURAGE ATTEMPTS TO RAISE THIS FIGURE, IN LINE WITH ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. END FYI.

4. DIMITRIOU ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FACT THAT CYPRUS AID THIS YEAR IS TO BE LABELED "SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE." WE EXPLAINED THAT ECONOMIC INDICATORS MAKE CYPRUS INELIGIBLE, UNDER USAID GUIDELINES FOR "DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE," BUT THAT CHANGE WAS PURELY INTERNAL AND WOULD NOT EFFECT HOW PROGRAM IS HANDLED. HABIB

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